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COOLEY GODWARD KRONISH LLP			PHONGSVIRA/ATL, POONSIK	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/759,532	<b>Applicant(s)</b> WHEELER, JUDY
	<b>Examiner</b> SIND PHONGSVIRAJATI	<b>Art Unit</b> 4176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### **Status**

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.      2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### **Disposition of Claims**

- 4) Claim(s) 1, 2, 4-14, 16-24, and 26-33 is/are pending in the application.
  - 4a) Of the above claim(s) none is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1, 2, 4-14, 16-24, and 26-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### **Application Papers**

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 20 January 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### **Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### **Attachment(s)**

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 20040921
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Priority***

1. If applicant desires to claim the benefit of a prior-filed application under 35 U.S.C. 120, a specific reference to the prior-filed application in compliance with 37 CFR 1.78(a) must be included in the first sentence(s) of the specification following the title or in an application data sheet. For benefit claims under 35 U.S.C. 120, 121 or 365(c), the reference must include the relationship (i.e., continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part) of the applications.

If the instant application is a utility or plant application filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) on or after November 29, 2000, the specific reference must be submitted during the pendency of the application and within the later of four months from the actual filing date of the application or sixteen months from the filing date of the prior application. If the application is a utility or plant application which entered the national stage from an international application filed on or after November 29, 2000, after compliance with 35 U.S.C. 371, the specific reference must be submitted during the pendency of the application and within the later of four months from the date on which the national stage commenced under 35 U.S.C. 371(b) or (f) or sixteen months from the filing date of the prior application. See 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and (a)(5)(ii). This time period is not extendable and a failure to submit the reference required by 35 U.S.C. 119(e) and/or 120, where applicable, within this time period is considered a waiver of any benefit of such prior application(s) under 35 U.S.C. 119(e), 120, 121 and 365(c). A benefit claim

filed after the required time period may be accepted if it is accompanied by a grantable petition to accept an unintentionally delayed benefit claim under 35 U.S.C. 119(e), 120, 121 and 365(c). The petition must be accompanied by (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. 120 or 119(e) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2) or (a)(5) to the prior application (unless previously submitted), (2) a surcharge under 37 CFR 1.17(t), and (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2) or (a)(5) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Director may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional. The petition should be addressed to: Mail Stop Petition, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

If the reference to the prior application was previously submitted within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 1.78(a), but not in the first sentence(s) of the specification or an application data sheet (ADS) as required by 37 CFR 1.78(a) (e.g., if the reference was submitted in an oath or declaration or the application transmittal letter), and the information concerning the benefit claim was recognized by the Office as shown by its inclusion on the first filing receipt, the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a) and the surcharge under 37 CFR 1.17(t) are not required. Applicant is still required to submit the reference in compliance with 37 CFR 1.78(a) by filing an amendment to the first sentence(s) of the specification or an ADS. See MPEP § 201.11.

***Notice to Applicant***

2. This communication is in response to the Claim Amendments filed on 21 September 2004. Claims 3, 15, and 25 have been canceled. Claims 1-2, 4-14, 16-24, and 26-33 are pending.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The statement "if one or more..." in claim 7 does not limit the claim scope and makes optional but does not require steps to be performed. Furthermore, the claim does not state what would happen if one or more rooms of the healthcare facility has occupants.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 4-6, 8, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamaguchi (JP 10040305 A).

3. As per **Claim 1**, Yamaguchi teaches the computer executable software code stored on a computer readable medium of a computer, the code for generating a graphical user interface, the graphical user interface (Yamaguchi, paragraph 0013) comprising:

- a plurality of room representations that each correspond to a room in a healthcare facility, each of the room representations communicating a number of beds in a corresponding room and identifiers of occupants of the beds (Fig 7, paragraph 22, Examiner infers to the fact that reference provides the user with the information as regards to the style of the room which indicates to the user the number of beds that are within a room) in the corresponding room (paragraph 23, Examiner infers to the fact the program indicates to the user as to whom the room is charged to); and

- an area communicating at least one of admits, discharges, bed holds, and room changes (paragraph 16, Fig. 31, item "room charge", Examiner infers to admits as occupied, discharges as vacant, bed holds as reserved);
- the plurality of room representations and the area being simultaneously displayed, with each visible in its entirety (Yamaguchi, Fig. 6A-B)

4. As per **Claim 4**, Yamaguchi teaches the computer executable software code of claim 1, the area communicating admits and discharges (Yamaguchi, paragraph 16).

5. As per **Claim 5**, Yamaguchi teaches the computer executable software code of claim 1, the area communicating bed holds (Yamaguchi, paragraph 16).
6. As per **Claim 6**, Yamaguchi teaches the computer executable software code of claim 1, the area communicating room changes (Yamaguchi, Fig. 31).
7. As per **Claim 8**, Yamaguchi teaches the computer executable software code of claim 1, the room representations including a series of adjacent blocks (Yamaguchi, Fig 6b).
8. As per **Claim 11**, Yamaguchi teaches the computer executable software code of claim 1, the area communicating admits, discharges, bed holds, and room changes (Yamaguchi, paragraph 0016).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
  2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
  3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
  4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.
11. Claim 2, 23, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamaguchi (JP 10040305 A) in view of Macrae (US 5,850,221).

As per **Claim 2, 23 and 31**, Yamaguchi teaches the computer executable software code. However, Yamaguchi fail to teach the graphical user interface further comprising: historical information relating to a past location of occupants in the facility and displaying a location of occupants in the facility on one or more previous days. Macrae teaches a graphical user interface further comprising: historical information relating to a past location of occupants in the facility and displaying a location of occupants in the facility on one or more previous days (col. 2, lines 63-68). It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include Macrae's teaching with the system of Yamaguchi in order to maintain and provide doctors and nurses with a patient's medical history.

12. Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamaguchi (JP 410040305 A) in view of Stolarz (US 6,240,421)
13. As per **Claim 32**, Yamaguchi teaches the method of claim 24. However they fail to teach the method further comprising: displaying a numerical number of occupied beds, a numerical number of available beds, and a numerical number of unavailable

beds in the facility. Stolarz teaches a method that calculates the total quantity of individual items (col 15, lines 11-44)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include Stolarz teaching with Yamaguchi in order to provide the health care facility administrator with a more comprehensive statute.

14. Claims 7, 9, 12-14, 16, 19, 22, 24, 27, 28, 30, and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamaguchi (JP 10040305 A).

15. As per **Claim 7**, Yamaguchi teaches the computer executable software code of claim 1, if one or more rooms has no occupants, then the room representation corresponding to the one or more rooms that have no occupants including an indicator representing that the one or more corresponding rooms have no occupants (Yamaguchi, paragraph 16). But Yamaguchi does not specifically disclose one or more rooms being of a healthcare facility.

However, it is well known to those of ordinary skill in the art, that, the accommodations of the room representation in a healthcare facility such as a hospital functions similarly to that of the accommodations of the room representation in a hotel in such that rooms may be reserved, occupied, or vacant, and official notice to that effect is hereby taken.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have modified the system of Yamaguchi so as to include the

scope of his invention to expand to healthcare facilities. One would have been motivated to include the room reservation system of Yamaguchi to healthcare facilities in order to track which rooms are or are not available to patients, since so doing could be performed readily and easily by any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results.

16. As per **Claim 9**, Yamaguchi teaches the computer executable software code of claim 8. However Yamauchi fails to teach the blocks each containing a plurality of indicators that each correspond to a bed in the corresponding room. The examiner takes official notice of the feature that uses blocks to represent beds in the corresponding room. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include this well known feature with the system of Yamaguchi's system in order to visually represent the number of beds within the corresponding room.

17. As per **Claim 12**, Yamaguchi teaches the computer executable software code stored on a computer readable medium of a computer, the code for generating a graphical user interface, the graphical user interface (Yamaguchi, paragraph 0013) comprising:

- a plurality of room representations that each correspond to a room, each of the room representations communicating a number of beds in a corresponding room (Fig 7, paragraph 22, Examiner infers to the fact that reference provides the user with the information as regards the style of the room which indicates to the user the number of beds that are within a room), identifiers of occupants of

the beds in the corresponding room (paragraph 23, Examiner infers to the fact the program indicates to the user as to whom the room is charged to);

- an area communicating at least one of admits, discharges, bed holds, and room changes (paragraph 16, Fig. 31, item "room charge", Examiner infers to admits as occupied, discharges as vacant, bed holds as reserved);
- the plurality of room representations and the area being simultaneously displayed, with each visible in its entirety (Yamaguchi, Fig. 6A-B).

Yamaguchi does not specifically disclose a healthcare facility. However, it is well known to those of ordinary skill in the art, that, the accommodations of the room representation in a healthcare facility such as a hospital functions similarly to that of the accommodations of the room representation in a hotel in such that rooms may be reserved, occupied, or vacant, and official notice to that effect is hereby taken.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have modified the system of Yamaguchi so as to include the scope of his invention to expand to healthcare facilities. One would have been motivated to include the room reservation system of Yamaguchi to healthcare facilities in order to track which rooms are or are not available to patients, since so doing could be performed readily and easily by any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results.

Yamaguchi fails to teach the gender identifier representing the gender of one or more occupants in the corresponding room. The examiner takes official notice of

maintaining the gender of the patient in a health care record. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include this well known feature with the system of Yamaguchi in order to maintain the records regarding the gender of the patients.

18. As per **Claim 13 and 19**, Yamaguchi teaches the computer executable software code, the gender identifier being at least one of a first color and a second color, the first color corresponding to one or more male occupants and the second color corresponding to one or more female occupants (paragraph 16, Yamaguchi has demonstrated the use of the color to represent multiple aspects of the a room, therefore it is inherent that Yamaguchi would use color to identify sex).

19. As per **Claim 14 and Claim 28**, Yamaguchi teaches the computer executable software code, but fails to teach the graphical user interface further comprising: a certification indicator designating beds of the healthcare facility that are certified for reimbursement. The examiner takes official notice of the certification of reimbursements. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include this well known feature with the system of Yamaguchi in order to correctly charge patients who are qualified for a Medicare reimbursement.

20. As per **Claim 16**, Yamaguchi teaches the computer executable software code stored on a computer readable medium of a computer, the code for generating a graphical user interface (Yamaguchi, paragraph 0013), the graphical user interface comprising:

- a plurality of room representations that each correspond to a room in a healthcare facility, each of the room representations communicating a number of beds in the corresponding room and identifiers of occupants of the beds (Fig 7, paragraph 22, Examiner infers to the fact that reference provides the user with the information as regards to the style of the room which indicates to the user the number of beds that are within a room) in the corresponding room; and
- an area communicating at least one of admits discharges, bed holds, and room changes (paragraph 16, Fig. 31, item "room charge", Examiner infers to admits as occupied, discharges as vacant, bed holds as reserved);
- the plurality of room representations and the area being simultaneously displayed, with each visible in its entirety (Yamaguchi, Fig. 6A-B).

Yamaguchi does not specifically disclose a healthcare facility. However, it is well known to those of ordinary skill in the art, that, the accommodations of the room representation in a healthcare facility such as a hospital functions similarly to that of the accommodations of the room representation in a hotel in such that rooms may be reserved, occupied, or vacant, and official notice to that effect is hereby taken.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have modified the system of Yamaguchi so as to include the scope of his invention to expand to healthcare facilities. One would have been motivated to include the room reservation system of Yamaguchi to healthcare facilities in order to track which rooms are or are not available to patients, since so doing could

be performed readily and easily by any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results.

Yamaguchi fails to teach the code that enables the computer to display a certification indicator designating beds of the healthcare facility that are certified for reimbursement. The examiner takes official notice of the certification of reimbursements. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include this well known feature with the system of Yamaguchi in order to correctly charge patients who are qualified for Medicare reimbursement.

21. As per **Claim 22**, Yamaguchi teaches a computer program product having computer-executable software code stored thereon for use with a computer, the code comprising:

- code that enables the computer to display a plurality of room representations that each correspond to a room in a facility, each of the room representations communicating a number of beds in a corresponding room (Fig 7, paragraph 22, Examiner infers to the fact that reference provides the user with the information as regards to the style of the room which indicates to the user the number of beds that are within a room) and identifiers of occupants of the beds in the corresponding room (paragraph 23, Examiner infers to the fact the program indicates to the user as to whom the room is charged to);
- code that enables the computer to display in conjunction with said display of the plurality of room representations an area communicating at least one of

admits, discharges, bed holds, and room changes (paragraph 16, Fig. 31, item "room charge", Examiner infers to admits as occupied, discharges as vacant, bed holds as reserved);

- code also enables the computer to display in conjunction with said display of the plurality of room representations an area communicating at least one of admits, discharges, bed holds, and room changes (paragraph 16, fig 31, item "room charge", Examiner infers to admits as occupied, discharges as vacant, bed holds as reserved);
- the plurality of room representations and the area being simultaneously displayed, with each visible in its entirety (Yamaguchi, Fig. 6A-B)

However Yamaguchi fails to teach the code enables the computer to display a certification identifier designating beds of the healthcare facility that are certified for reimbursement. The examiner takes official notice of the certification of reimbursements.

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include this well known feature with the system of Yamaguchi in order to correctly charge patients who are qualified for Medicare reimbursement.

However, Yamaguchi fails to teach gender identifier representing the gender of one or more occupants in the corresponding room. The examiner takes official notice of maintaining the gender of the patient in a health care record.

It would have been obvious for an artisan at the time of the invention to include this well known feature with the system of Yamaguchi in order to keep record of patients' gender.

22. As per **Claim 24**, Yamaguchi teaches a method of displaying information relating to the census of a facility, comprising:

- displaying a plurality of room representations that each correspond to a room in a facility, each of the room representations communicating a number of beds (Fig 7, paragraph 22, Examiner infers to the fact that reference provides the user with the information as regards to the style of the room which indicates to the user the number of beds that are within a room) in a corresponding room and identifiers of occupants of the beds in the corresponding room (paragraph 23, Examiner infers to the fact the program indicates to the user as to whom the room is charged to); and
- displaying an area communicating at least one of admits, discharges, bed holds, and room changes (paragraph 16, Fig. 31, item "room charge", Examiner infers to admits as occupied, discharges as vacant, bed holds as reserved);
- the plurality of room representations and the area being simultaneously displayed, with each visible in its entirety (Yamaguchi, Fig. 6A-B).

Yamaguchi does not specifically disclose a healthcare facility. However, it is well known to those of ordinary skill in the art, that, the accommodations of the room representation in a healthcare facility such as a hospital functions similarly to that of the

accommodations of the room representation in a hotel in such that rooms may be reserved, occupied, or vacant, and official notice to that effect is hereby taken.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have modified the system of Yamaguchi so as to include the scope of his invention to expand to healthcare facilities. One would have been motivated to include the room reservation system of Yamaguchi to healthcare facilities in order to track which rooms are or are not available to patients, since so doing could be performed readily and easily by any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results.

23. As per **Claim 27**, Yamaguchi teaches the method of claim 24, said displaying an area communicating admits (Yamaguchi, paragraph 0016).

24. As per **Claim 30**, Yamaguchi teaches the method of claim 24, said displaying an area communicating discharges (Yamaguchi, paragraph 0016).

25. As per **Claim 33**, Yamaguchi teaches the method of claim 24, said displaying an area communicating bed holds (Yamaguchi, paragraph 0016).

26. Claim 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamaguchi (JP 410040305 A) in view of Fogel et al. (US 6,542,905)

As per **Claims 20 and 21**, Yamaguchi teaches the computer executable software code, but fails to teach the graphical user interface further comprising: an area

communicating occupants that are eligible for reimbursement under a health insurance where the program the health insurance program being a federal health insurance program. Fogel et al. teaches a health insurance program being a federal health insurance program (col 4, lines 32-35). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include Fogel et al.'s teaching with system of Yamaguchi in order maintain and provided the same service at federal level.

27. Claims 17 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamaguchi (JP 410040305 A) in view of Eaton (US 6,570,567).

As per **Claim 17 and Claim 29**, Yamaguchi teaches the computer executable software code, but Yamaguchi fails to teach the certification indicator including a border outlining room representations corresponding to rooms having beds that are certified for reimbursement. Eaton teaches outlining or highlighting borders of the individual are in focus (col 7, lines 17-28).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include Eaton teaching to the software of Yamaguchi in order differentiate visual the occupants with certified reimbursements and the occupants without certified reimbursement.

28. Claims 10, 18, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamaguchi (JP 410040305 A) in view of Eaton (US 6,570,567) and in further view of Brimm (US 5,077,666).

29. As per **Claim 10**, Yamaguchi teaches the computer executable software code of claim 9, but fails to teach the identifiers including occupants' names. Brimm teaches the identifiers including occupants names (fig 4, item 74). It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the feature of inserting the names of the occupants into the identifiers as disclosed by Brimm with the system of Yamaguchi, since by doing so would show the names of the occupants inside each of the rooms.

30. As per **Claim 18 and 26**, the combination of Yamaguchi and Eaton teach the computer executable software code, but does not the graphical user interface further comprising: at least one gender identifier representing the gender of one or more occupants in the corresponding room. However, Brimm does teach the graphical user interface further comprising: at least one gender identifier representing the gender of one or more occupants in the corresponding room (Brimm, Fig. 5, item 120). It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include this well known feature with the system of Brimm et al.'s and Yamaguchi's system in order to monitor and maintain gender information regarding the occupants in the corresponding room.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SIND PHONGSVIRAJATI whose telephone number is (571) 270-5398. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 8:00am-5:00pm (ET).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jerry O'Connor can be reached on (571) 272-6787. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or (571) 272-1000.

/S. P./  
Examiner, Art Unit 4176  
2 July 2008

/Gerald J. O'Connor/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Group Art Unit 4176